

**Remarks by  
Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff  
General Henry H. Shelton**

**Secretary and Mrs. Cohen, Distinguished German and United States  
Guests, General and Mrs. Clark, General and Mrs. Ralston, Admiral and Mrs.  
Abbott, ladies and gentlemen, men and women of the United States European  
Command.**

**It's indeed a great pleasure to be here today to participate in this ceremony  
and to have the opportunity to recognize your outstanding performance.  
Everywhere in the world you will see dedicated men and women working in  
unified commands and in joint task forces doing truly outstanding things in  
support of our national security and safeguarding our nation's interests.**

**I am very proud of every soldier, sailor, airman and marine, but today I want  
to recognize your exemplary service during a particular challenging period,  
October of 1998 through September of 1999. This command is busy all the time,  
however during this period the United States European Command faced several  
significant challenges in an area of the world that contains a vast number of  
America's important interest and allies. The Joint Meritorious Unit Award  
recognizes the critical role of this command in the success of NATO and the  
United States operations this past year.**

**Operation Allied Force is certainly the most well known of your  
accomplishments as well it should be. Allied Force was the largest air campaign  
in Europe in over 50 years. The most precise bombing campaign in history and it  
set the conditions for a peace settlement. But while the bombing campaign**

gained most of the headlines, a number of very important operations executed during this period proved equally important clearly indicating the complexity of the situation in Kosovo.

Operation Balkan Com and Operations Sky and Flexible Anvil preceded Allied Force and were part of the effort to prevent Milosevic from using military force to brutalize his own people.

Operation Allied Harbor provided relief to the tens of thousands of Kosovar Albanian refugees who had fled Serbian aggression.

And Operation Joint Guardian, the ongoing peacekeeping and peace enforcement operations in Kosovo is helping to provide a safe and secure environment and to set the conditions for the establishment of the rule of law.

At the same time there were a number of other crisis and ongoing contingency operations that called on your time, dedication and experience, including Operations Deliberate Forge and Joint Forge in Bosnia which provide security while that country rebuilds. Operation Northern Watch against Iraq, Operation Shadow Express to protect our embassy in Liberia and Operation Avid Response in Turkey, which helped that nation, recover from a devastating earthquake.

All of these actions were done on top of the normal engagement and training activities, which include such important programs as the Partnership for Peace and the African Crisis Response initiative.

In every case you, the men and women of EUCOM supported our nation with thorough planning, outstanding support and extraordinary execution. Your

ability to carry out the multitude of day-to-day commitments along with major operations proves once again that you are equal to any task. You are truly a world-class organization.

I don't have to tell you that the future will hold more of the same; you are responsible for a very vital and dynamic area of the world. We will continue to look to you to provide the solutions for the difficult situations that arise in this area of operation and responsibility. But never doubt that the President, Secretary Cohen and all of the Joint Chiefs recognize and value your service and contributions. We will continue to count on you and to do what is best for America and for our allies.

The Joint Meritorious Unit Award is the highest recognition that can be awarded to a joint organization. You have certainly earned that mark of distinction. The Secretary and I are immensely proud of your accomplishments, your country is proud of what you have done, and you should be very proud of yourselves. You have never let us down, and I know that you never will. Please publish the orders.